UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/47
24 January 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a goodwill message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, on the occasion of the open meeting of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex). I would appreciate it if this message could be formally conveyed to members of the Security Council and the participants in the open meeting and also be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Olusegun APATA
Ambassador of the Democratic
Republic of the Congo

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Annex

Letter dated 24 January 2000 from the President of Nigeria addressed to the President of the Security Council

Goodwill message on the occasion of the open meeting of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On behalf of the Government and the people of Nigeria, I congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council during the first month of the new millennium and for the high profile and attention you have given to African issues in our Organization. To this end, I am delighted to send this message of goodwill to the members of the Council and the participants in this historic open meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including my brother Heads of State who have travelled all the way from our continent, for a very successful deliberation. Their presence demonstrates the commitment which the Organization of African Unity and all African leaders have towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is gratifying that the Security Council, under the Presidency of the United States of America, at the very beginning of the new millennium, is devoting a substantial part of its programme of work and its time to the issues of peace and security in Africa. It is appropriate and fitting that the United Nations is taking an early lead in the new millennium in focusing on issues of peace and security on the African continent.

The impressive turnout of a large number of African leaders in the Security Council today to participate in the efforts to resolve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a solid show of the commitment of Africa and its leaders to truly turn 2000 into a year of peace, security and solidarity. Certainly, their presence should convince the international community that we are committed to ending conflicts afflicting some States on our continent.

The early resolution of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will certainly have a positive effect on the security of the entire subregion and give substance to the decision of African leaders at their 1999 Algiers Summit to make 2000 truly the year of peace, security and solidarity. It is important, therefore, that all efforts be made at this meeting to reaffirm the collective commitment of all parties to the Lusaka Agreement. The United Nations should also give concrete support to complement the regional and continental arrangement aimed at peacemaking and peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(Signed) Olusegun OBASANJO
President of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria